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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 19, 1001

APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE000584

For approval of a functional  
separation plan under the Virginia  
Electric Utility Restructuring Act

ORDER

On June 22, 2001, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Virginia Power" or "Company") filed its Motion for Status Conference. Several responses to the motion were filed on or about July 6, 2001. The Company filed its reply to the responses on July 16, 2001.

In its reply, Virginia Power indicates that the need for an in camera conference with the Commission "is no longer necessary." Instead, the Company suggests a new procedure. Our Order of February 22, 2001, which established the procedural schedule for this case, directed the Commission Staff to convene a meeting or meetings among the Company, Staff, the Office of Attorney General and Protestants "for the purpose of identifying and discussing the issues raised by this application and exploring the possibility of narrowing the issues to be presented at hearing through settlement or stipulation." The

Order further directed the Staff to advise the Commission by letter on or before July 31, 2001, of "the results of these discussions." Virginia Power has now asked that it be allowed to file with us a letter of its own and, in essence, to hold its request for the in camera conference in abeyance while we consider its letter.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the pleadings herein, is of the opinion and finds that the Company's Motion for Status Conference should be, and is, DENIED. We will instead permit the Company and any other participant to file a letter with the Clerk of the Commission on or before July 31, 2001, simultaneously serving a copy on each participant, to advise us of the result of their discussions, consistent with our original Order. We direct the Staff, the Company, and any other participant that chooses to file such a letter not to reveal the particulars of any proposal that may have been discussed, nor any confidences disclosed during the course of these meetings.